



Office of the Secretary of State 2010-2011 Student Programs



As you prepare your 2000-11 curriculum, please consider including one or more of the following educational programs offered by the Secretary of State that are designed to promote civic participation and awareness of Maine's History. To learn more, please visit our webpage: www.maine.gov/sos/kids/ or contact our office at 626-8400 or sos.office@maine.gov. An overview of each program can be found below.

Congressional Medal of Honor Project

A great idea for a Service Learning Project, students will study a local Congressional Medal of Honor recipient, work with the community to record an existing memorial or establish a memorial for the recipient. Research, design, presentations, fundraising and an enduring memorial for students to be proud of are the rewards. Learn more by visiting: www.maine.gov/sos/kids/cmoh/.

Native American History and Culture Essay Contest

Open to both middle and high schools, this contest is designed to give students an opportunity to showcase what they have learned through Maine Native American Studies. Winners receive an award and an opportunity for their class to view rare Native American Treaties at the Maine State Archives in Augusta. All participants receive an award certificate. Essays are due on November 12, 2010. Find out more at: www.maine.gov/sos/kids/nativeamerican/.

Maine National History Day

An opportunity to meet MLR standards in many disciplines, History Day is part of a nationwide program that offers middle and high school students a chance to compete at the state level by producing a historical paper, exhibit, documentary, website or performance. There are individual and group divisions in all but the paper category.

The state contest is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, March 23, 2011 at the University of Maine at Augusta. First and second place state winners in all categories at both the junior and senior level qualify to attend National History Day at the University of Maryland in June. To learn more visit www.nhd.org/ or www.maine.gov/sos/arc/historyday/.

If you would like to receive informational materials for the 2011 contest in the fall, send your mailing address to Felicia Kennedy at Felicia.Kennedy@maine.gov. The 2011 theme is *Debate & Diplomacy in History: Successes, Failures, Consequences*.

Maine Constitution Poster and Essay Contest

One of our most popular programs, this contest gives students in grades K-12 an opportunity to “show what they know” about Maine. Winners receive an award and an invite for their class to view the original Maine Constitution at the Maine State Archives in Augusta. All participants receive an award certificate. Submissions are due March 4, 2011. To learn more visit:

www.maine.gov/sos/kids/student-programs/const_essay.htm.

Eighth Grade Citizenship Awards

Dozens of schools have already sent in their nomination forms to honor their graduating eighth graders with the 2010 Secretary of State’s Citizenship Award. In 2009, 135 schools participated in this program. Students are recognized for their civic awareness, scholastic achievements and community service. Many schools request a legislator to present the certificate at their awards ceremony. We will continue to offer our online nomination application, simplifying the process for you. The 2010 nominations are due by May 26. Next year’s nominations will be due on May 25, 2011. For details visit:

www.maine.gov/sos/kids/student-programs/8th_citi.html.

Student Presentations at the Maine State Archives

The teachers and classes who visit the Maine State Archives as part of their prize for winning a student contest often remark at how much they enjoyed the experience and how surprised they are at the resources available at the Archives. We will offer scheduled presentations to any grades 4-12 class wishing to visit.

A presentation begins with a discussion of the necessity a state archive and the different types of records in our holdings. The archivists will display and explain examples of our Native American holdings, those pertaining to the Maine Constitution, or the Civil War and tailor it to your region of the state. If you have a particular topic that you are interested in exploring with your class at the Archives outside of the 3 listed above, you may inquire about the possibility of a presentation.

Please contact Nicole Ladner at sos.office@maine.gov if you are interested in such a program.



To learn more about any of our programs,
please visit our webpage www.maine.gov/sos/kids/
or contact our office at 626-8400 or e-mail
sos.office@maine.gov.